ESSENTIAL
Southwest
Architecture

OPPOSITE: Evoking the spirit of a European castle, this intimate courtyard features a stone turret at the entry, an antique limestone wall fountain and an arched surround sheltering a wood and glass door with an elaborately scrolled iron panel. A combination of stone and stucco walls in an earthy palette, rough-hewn wood eave brackets and whitewashed tile flooring create a patina of age. The home was designed by architect Erik Peterson and built by Montara Custom Homes.

TOP: The simple concave curve of this home's facade follows the shape of the motor court. The structure bears many features of Old World-style architecture, including pitched Saltillo-tile roofs, varying ceiling elevations, and a serpentine exterior stone wall leading to the entrance. Architect Erik Peterson designed the residence, which was built by R.J. Gurley Construction.

LEFT: A graceful groin-vaulted passageway connects the formal living and dining rooms to the main living areas of a stately European-style home designed by Gary Wyant and built by Calvis Wyant Luxury Homes. Shapely arches, polished marble flooring, lavish lighting and painted ceiling embellishments further elevate the formal Old World ambience. The home's interior design was accomplished by Lissa Lee Hickman and Ann-Eve Drachman-Berry.

"Architecture with the spirit of old Europe has found welcoming territory in the desert, hillsides and foothills of the Southwest"

ABOVE: Sumptuous silk draperies puddle on marble floors in this master bedroom by interior designers Lissa Lee Hickman and Ann-Eve Drachman-Berry. Underscoring the formal Old World feel are ornate crown molding, a carved limestone fireplace and furnishings in the style of the day, a mix of antiques and modern-day pieces. The home was designed and built by Calvis Wyant Luxury Homes.

LEFT: Drawing inspiration from European design in the same home's library are alder built-ins, hardwood floors, and millwork that includes a coffered ceiling and narrow bookshelves designed as columns between arched windows.